Faculty list of activities
Kishan Rana / Stefano Baldi / Petru Dumitriu

Opinion-piece
Jovan Kurbalija

Alumni list of activities
Candice Tran Dai / Oleksandr Tsaruk / Manyi Orok-Tambe / Bamituni Etomi / Marko Krstić / Joelson M Aneré

Staff list of activities
Marília Maciel / Andre Saramago / Katharina Höne / Darija Medić

Reading recommendation
by Prof. G. R. Berridge

A tribute
Ambassador Paramjit (Pummy) Sahai
Dear reader,

The year 2019 was particularly active for DiploFoundation faculty, alumni, and staff members. This newsletter lists their activities, including publications (academic papers, books, opinion pieces), presentations at conferences, international organisations, news channels, web debates and other events, as well as other activities relevant for those who work in, study, and think about diplomacy and international relations. Within these lists, we hope you will find something that sparks your interest and/or is related to your area of activity, and we warmly invite you to contact the authors if that is the case.

We also have an opinion piece by Prof. Jovan Kurbalija, Founding Director of DiploFoundation, discussing Diplo’s latest project, *humAlnism*, and a reading recommendation by Prof. GR Berridge, Emeritus Professor of International Politics at the University of Leicester and Diplo Senior Fellow, reviewing Sir Brian Barder’s book *Diplomatic Diary*. The newsletter finishes with an obituary of faculty member Amb. Paramjit S. Sahai who sadly departed earlier this year, written by Amb. Kishan Rana, Professor Emeritus at DiploFoundation.

If you want to learn more about DiploFoundation and its activities please check our website (https://www.diplomacy.edu) or contact andres@diplomacy.edu for any related queries.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter.
In 2020, Diplo will enter a new phase: Diplo 5.0. We will follow our well-tested philosophy of continuity in our core mission of assisting countries, citizens, and companies to participate meaningfully in international relations; and change in the ways we work to accomplish our mission.

For example, the function and need for negotiations remains as it has been for centuries. But the way we negotiate is changing, with WhatsApp replacing corridor diplomacy, and the use of data and AI bringing new evidence in negotiating processes.

At Diplo, we have to revisit these fast-changing circumstances. Change is not always easy and simple. Change alters habits and routines, pushes us out of our human comfort zone, and puts us in new situations.

Thus, our first step is to ensure that our staff, lecturers, and wider community, including alumni, understand the changes ahead of us and become active and creative agents of change.

Change will be happening in three main directions:

First, in the training field, we will increasingly focus on skills for digitalisation of traditional diplomacy, a process which is happening fast. More and more digital tools are used in conducting diplomacy. More and more digital topics are raised on the diplomatic agenda. In our training, we will ensure that the core values, tested over centuries, remain relevant in the digital era. We will also widen our course catalogue to include just-in-time courses addressing the latest issues.

Second, Diplo’s research and design activities will evolve from individuals writing articles or designing images towards creative exchanges with groups of researchers, artists, and philosophers. We hope that new and unexpected insights will emerge. By putting many smart people in cognitive proximity, we may be able to be as effective in connecting ideas and concepts and building knowledge as artificial intelligence (AI). New and creative insights will feed into our Digital Watch analysis and into our courses.
Third, a new AI platform, developed by Diplo’s AI Lab, will make profound changes in our teaching, research, and communication. In our work with AI, we will learn how AI functions. It will help us to see how AI can be used for negotiation, policy analysis, and other diplomatic activities. AI will cut across our teaching, research, and communication activities.

The name we use to encompass these developments and more is humAInism. HumAInism will be the ‘conveyor belt’ for Diplo 5.0, encompassing a technical, philosophical, societal, and human rights approach. The high relevance of humAInism for Diplo 5.0 makes it the central theme of this opinion piece.

The humAInism project, which was formally presented at the 14th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Berlin, is the result of a decades-long accumulation of experience, know-how, and understanding. It traces its origins back to 1999 when DiploFoundation organised the first conference on Knowledge and Diplomacy to explore the relationship between language and diplomacy and the use of hypertext in online learning, and more recently, the development of knowledge portals such as the Digital Watch Observatory.

**A ‘snippet’ on humAInism**

Discussions on the regulation of AI are the hype of this decade. Various initiatives are surfacing, but ironically, one important element is always missing from the picture: AI itself.

This is where humAInism comes in.

How, you may ask? By including AI in the conversation about what an AI-assisted future might look like.

The project has two tracks. The first track invites tech companies and research institutions to develop AI systems that will analyse the rich corpus of human knowledge based on fundamental lessons drawn from philosophy, ethics, and theology in order to draft a guide for the development of AI. The second track applies to direct development and application of existing AI solutions in the field of digital diplomacy, facilitated by Diplo’s expertise.

Aside from starting a global interdisciplinary discussion on AI guidelines, humAInism will also showcase AI tools that can assist in the conduct of multilateral negotiations, and in the drafting of reports and statements on a broad range of issues.
Today, Diplo has the maturity and wisdom to assemble the organisational, technical, and research building blocks needed for the creation of a data and AI-driven organisation.

So, what will be the practical elements of humAlnism?

- Diplo’s rich pool of gathered and owned data will be used to identify correlation and causation among different parameters, including, for instance, the rate of crime, rate of cybercrime, and investment in e-commerce in a given country. In addition, any comment or insight contributed to academic articles or blog posts will become an integral part of Diplo’s corpus of knowledge which, in turn, will be at the disposal of learners, lecturers, and researchers.
- Instant AI analysis of articles, reports, and diplomatic documents.
- AI-driven reporting from conferences and events.

The most interesting aspect of humAlnism is that it will ‘walk the talk’ and, as such, go beyond discussions on AI, ethics, and governance. HumAlnism will reflect Diplo’s dedication to capacity development, and therefore the project will widely share experiences on the practical use of AI in diplomacy and international relations.

That said, we are fully aware that as with all new technological tools, new challenges will emerge. While AI and data mining will provide more precise insights on contemporary international relations, they will also require researchers to develop new research methods.

Throughout all these activities, our objective is to anchor AI in the tradition of humanity. AI is here to stay, meaning that we have to accept and learn how to deal with AI. The current, simplified, dystopian/utopian framing of the impact of AI on society is not of great help. Instead, the complexity of AI’s impact requires a much more sophisticated engagement. First, we need to understand better how AI functions. Once we understand this, we can consider AI’s practical use in research, teaching, and diplomatic negotiations.

As we argued at the IGF, we think that giving AI a seat at the negotiating table can help us address the complexity of modern policy issues. How? The simple answer is: by providing more evidence and insights. HumAlnism will invite tech companies and AI researchers to develop and employ AI to draft a social contract, in other words, a guide (on the basis of philosophical, literary, and theological sources, among others) for the AI era.

By analysing the corpus of human knowledge, from ancient texts to the latest blog posts, AI will provide us with reflections on how to deal with the core ethical, political, and legal issues posed by the fast development of AI. While the social contract will not be final and conclusive, we hope that it will provide food for thought. It should mark the beginning of a global debate on some of the core challenges faced on the eve of the AI era.

Diplo will make a contribution by harnessing its long tradition and expertise in addressing digital challenges in a comprehensive, informed, and creative way. On this important journey, the role of Diplo’s lecturers and associates will be highly important and relevant.
Faculty list of activities

Kishan Rana
Professor Emeritus, former Indian Ambassador and Senior Fellow at DiploFoundation

• Publications/papers


• Other activities

  • Panel discussion] Indian Council of World Affairs, conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), 19 August 2019.
  • [Session chair] Experience of the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) on its 50-year history and future relevance. 11th All-India Conference on Chinese Studies, Jindal University, Sonepat, 8 November 2019.
  • [Lead speaker] Inauguration of the Madagascar Center for International and Strategic Research at Antananarivo, 18 July 2019.
  • [Three lectures] Diplomatic Academy, Hanoi, 18 October 2019.
Stefano Baldi

Ambassador of Italy to Bulgaria and former Director of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy

• Publications/papers


• Presentations

  • ‘The art of diplomacy or the diplomacy of art?’ New Bulgarian University, Sofia, 16 January 2019.
  • ‘The diplomat of XXI century (diplomat 2.0)’. University of National and World Economy, Sofia, 12 March 2019.
  • ‘Diplomat 2.0. The diplomat at the age of Internet’. American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, 26 March 2019.
  • ‘The art of diplomacy or the diplomacy of art?’ Università di Pavia, Pavia, 22 July 2019.
  • ‘Conference on 140 years of diplomatic relations between Italy and Bulgaria’. 29 September 2019.
  • ‘Diplomatic communication and social media’. New Bulgarian University, Sofia, 11 December 2019.
  • ‘La Settimana della Cucina Italiana nel Mondo ha rappresentato le nostre tradizioni culinarie’. 8 November 2019.
  • ‘New face of diplomacy in a digital world. Ambassadors have a much higher exposure to the public than in the past’. 7 November 2019.
  • [Interview] ‘Intervista all’Ambasciatore Stefano Baldi’. TV EUROPA, 12 October 2019.
  • [Interview] ‘Stefano Baldi: Italian ambassador on positive vibes and crossing roads in Bulgaria’. VAGABOND.BG, 1 August 2019.


• [Interview] ‘Intervista a Stefano Baldi (1/2) sui 140 anni di relazioni fra Italia-Bulgaria (BNT)’. 20 January 2019.

• [Interview] ‘Intervista a Stefano Baldi (2/2) sui 140 anni di relazioni fra Italia-Bulgaria (BNT)’. 13 January 2019.

• Other activities


• [Exhibition] ‘140 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Italy and Bulgaria’.

• [Documentary] ‘Journey in Italy. Discovering the 20 Italian Regions through their Art, Food and Music’.
Petru Dumitriu

Member of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system and former Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Council of Europe to the United Nations Office

• Publications/papers

• Presentations
  • [Panel member] 'Leveraging knowledge to advance the 2030 Agenda'. From Science to Practice: Strengthening Research Uptake to Achieve the SDGs, Geneva Science-Policy Interface and University of Geneva, 11 December 2019.
  • [Panel member] ‘Research collaboration and communication beyond the ivory tower’. Multilateralism at Risk, Swiss Network for International Studies and University of Bern, 26 October 2019.
  • [Keynote speaker] ‘Crosscutting roundtable on practitioner-research partnerships: What are challenges and best practices for making the SDGs real’. Annual Meeting of Evidence and Governance in Politics, 10 October 2019.
  • [Panel member] ‘Trends and practice of training for multilateral diplomacy: leadership, preparations for multilateral postings, maximizing the offer of diplomatic training by international organizations’. 46th Meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations, 20 September 2019.

• Awards
  • [Recipient] Sustainable Development Awards 2018

• Other activities
Candice Tran Dai

Vice-president & Head of the Cyberspace Program at Asia Center, a Paris-based think tank, and Non-Resident Senior Policy Analyst & Chair of the Special Interest Group CyCORP at the Global Foundation for Cyber Studies and Research, a Washington D.C.-based think tank

• Publications/papers


• Presentations


Oleksandr Tsaruk

Graduate Research Assistant of Department of Management at John Chambers College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University

• Publications/papers

Manyi Orok-Tambe
Foreign Affairs Officer of the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon

• Publications/papers


• Presentations

Bamituni Etomi

Academic researcher doing a PhD in Economics and Finance

• Publications

Marko Krstić

Senior Cybersecurity Advisor at Serbian National CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team)

• Publications/Papers

• Presentations
Joelson M Aneré

First Vice Chairman at Anere Institute of International Studies (AiiS)

• Presentations

  • ‘Male advocate roles and male advocate responsibilities in a changing world’, PNG Update Conference Paper, Port Moresby, 8–9 August 2019.
  • ‘What is the impact of Papua New Guinea’s leadership on the Pacific Island Forum (PIF), Melanesian SpearHead Group (MSG), and Donor Partners if “Take Back PNG and Work The Blue Pacific” was adopted as a Foreign Policy?’ PNG Impact Conference Paper, Port Boresby, 8–9 August 2019.
  • ‘Causal failures or intentional failures: Who do we blame for the lack of gender equality programming in the humanitarian crisis before, during, and after the Bougainville Crisis?’, Asia Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference, Melbourne, 22–24 May 2019.
Staff list of activities

Marilia Maciel
Digital Policy Senior Researcher at DiploFoundation

• Presentations

  • ‘Public diplomacy v. disinformation: Are there red lines?’ Session jointly organised by Stiftung Neue Verantwortung and Microsoft at the 14th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Berlin, 27 November 2019.
  • ‘As a stakeholder in the digital transformation, can civil society make its voice heard?’ Session organised by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community at the 14th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Berlin, 25 November 2019.
  • ‘Trade norms on access to the source code: What is the impact on trade in services and development?’ Session organised by DiploFoundation and ITC at the WTO Public Forum, Geneva, 10 October 2019.

• Training

  • With Vladimir Radunović: ‘Towards the national cybersecurity framework in Uzbekistan: Building a multistakeholder platform.’ Capacity building provided in partnership with the OSCE, Uzbekistan, 4–7 November 2019.
• Publications/papers
  
  • [Article] *Reality-congruence, emancipatory politics and situated knowledge in International Relations: A process sociological perspective.* *International Relations.*
  

• Presentations
  
  
  
  
  
Katharina Höne
Senior Lecturer, Researcher, and Project Manager at DiploFoundation

• Publications/papers

• Presentations

• Selected workshops and training sessions

• Other
Darija Medic

Web and Software Programmer and Digital Art Project Coordinator at DiploFoundation

Darija’s most meaningful experiences in 2019 gather various angles through which policy shares its space with other forms of interacting with technology. Starting the year with insights into how we can develop a sensibility for the impact of policy on issues of human rights, she developed an overview of Afrofuturism through examples from film scenes of Afrofuturist films, reading particular policy scenarios through the format of a card game.

She was invited to take part in producing and designing a show – ‘Signals – Algorithms of Disobedience’ – in collaboration with kuda.org. Adapting (or in the language of open source, forking) the project of Berliner Gazette, she created a conceptual framework for how to think about the significance of the Snowden files in a post-Cambridge Analytica era.

Her interactive participatory art piece ‘Transmitting is a Two Way channel’ (first two image attachments) showed at several locations in 2019. The piece is an installation and performance transforming browsers into FM transmission stations, questioning the democratic potential of participatory technologies, anonymity, and data obfuscation. The archive of user participation in both audio and textual content grows over time and becomes a growing radio show as well as literary content.

Further in the landscape of demystification, her lecture The promise of blockchain, ideal mediation or illusive transactions? explored the conceptual grounds of facilitating blockchain for collaborative creative processes at the Creative Backslash conference, Fabrika, Belgrade, Serbia.

During a study visit and residency in New York, she created an enabling environment for a conversation on digital policy in everyday usage of technology from the perspective of the regular user. Among these inputs was the discussion on Art as Disruptive Knowledge in the Times of Emerging Technologies at Residency Unlimited, as well as the guest lecture Default Settings: Gender Norms of Everyday Scrolling, at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Continuing on those grounds, at the Creative Time Summit, she ran a workshop on creating a radio drama out of terms of service from various smartphone apps.

On her 2020 list is a fascinating Research Creation Fellowship from Chronus Art Center Shanghai/Duke University Kunshan for the research: Gatekeepers of Network Poetics – where she will investigate memes as contemporary tragic heroes of digital narratives. With these bridges to art practices, which she is actively including in online course materials and other activities at DiploFoundation, you can follow Darija’s research on her website as well as Diplo’s blog.
Brian Barder’s Diplomatic Diary


Sir Brian Barder, the senior British diplomat and author of the always sage and sometimes gripping blog ‘What Diplomats Do’, died in 2017 but, courtesy of the professional editorial hand of his daughter Louise, has left us another treat. This is what he called a diary and which for the most part has the form of a diary (dated daily entries), although originally it was a series of letters sent to friends from foreign parts. Compared to diplomatic memoirs, diplomatic diaries are a rarity. And since this one is the product of an acute observer who loved the English language and used it in a vigorous and creative style, the appearance of this volume is doubly welcome.

The diary does not cover Barder’s early career, which started in the Colonial Office in 1957, but begins when he arrived in Moscow in February 1971. In that important embassy he was first secretary political, number two to the head of chancery and also press attaché; in September, when his immediate boss went on leave, he became acting head of chancery and right-hand man of the ambassador just as the crisis began in Anglo-Soviet relations provoked by the expulsion of 105 Soviet intelligence officers from London (at almost 100 pages, the Moscow diary is the longest in the book). The next chapters deal with Australia in the mid-1970s, where he was counsellor head of chancery and a little over two years after his arrival faced the political crisis prompted by the sudden sacking of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam by the governor-general, who looked ‘as always like Mr. Micawber, portly in morning coat and top hat, his thick snowy hair flowing out of it and setting off his florid petulant baby face, plum-coloured with tan or anger or both.’ There follow chapters covering an eleven-month sabbatical in 1977-8 with the Canadian National Defence College while awaiting the outcome of a radical report on the Diplomatic Service; and finally, all of his head of mission appointments bar the last one. These were in Ethiopia, where in the mid-1980s Barder substantially overlapped with an appalling famine that attracted world-wide attention; Poland, in the last years of its Communist regime; and Nigeria, stagnating under yet another military junta at the end of the 1980s. Were it not for the relative stability prevailing at the last two postings, Barder might have been thought of as a diplomatic storm crow...

Full review can be found at DiploFoundation.
Ambassador PS (Pummy Sahai): A tribute

Pummy Sahai passed away on 12 January 2020 at his hometown Chandigarh, after a sudden illness. He was much admired in the Indian Foreign Service and in academia, and was on the Diplo faculty for some years.

He served in the Indian Foreign Service from 1963 to 2000, and was Ambassador/High Commissioner to Malawi, Lesotho, Yemen Democratic Republic, Sweden, and Malaysia. He specialised in cultural, consular, and diaspora affairs, edited two books, and authored *Indian Cultural Diplomacy: Celebrating Pluralism in a Globalised World* (2019).

Pummy was admired for his cheerfulness, soft-spoken manner, and friendliness towards all. In his teaching, he infected his class with a spirit of inquiry and an egalitarian touch, showing that he was a learner like them, embarking together on a voyage of expanded understanding and learning new things.

Behind this was his resolve and dedication to study and writing. At Chandigarh he was the moving spirit at an academic institute. Pummy and I jointly developed a course for DipoFoundation on consular diplomacy, which was later expanded to cover diaspora diplomacy. He had plans to write a book on this theme, and was engaged in another collaborative book compilation with several other scholars. His was an exemplary life of engagement, scholarship, and humane service. He will be deeply missed.