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CALL FOR PAPERS

New Perspectives on Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy

Exploring the relationship between culture and power
in international relations from the nineteenth century
to the present.



**24-26
FEBRUARY
2027**



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ORGANIZATION:
Institute of Social Sciences
(ICS-UL) and
Polo CIDEHUS - UAL

export ESTADO NOVO CULTURAL DIPLOMACY
AND REBRANDING STRATEGIES IN
THE UNITED STATES (1933-1974)

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Over the last decades, the cultural turn in International Relations and the growing dialogue between historians and social scientists have profoundly transformed the study of international affairs. Increasing attention has been devoted to the role of ideas, identities, representations, and cultural practices in shaping international orders, challenging approaches centered primarily on military, political, and economic power. Within this framework, scholars have increasingly recognized that cultural exchanges have often functioned as a principal infrastructure of international relations, sustaining contact when traditional diplomatic channels are strained, suspended, or politically contested.

Moreover, recent scholarship has moved beyond the Cold War framework that long dominated studies of cultural diplomacy and soft power, embracing longer historical trajectories and more diverse geographical contexts, while also broadening the range of actors considered to include not only major powers but also small, medium-sized, and peripheral states shaping international influence and cultural connections across borders.

Building on these developments, this conference seeks to provide a focused and interactive forum for discussion, exchange, and collaboration on the relationship between culture and power in international relations from the nineteenth century to the present. It welcomes contributions that investigate the changing forms, actors, and practices of cultural diplomacy and soft power across different political regimes, international orders, and geographical settings, while encouraging comparative, transnational, and interdisciplinary perspectives.



CONFERENCE THEMES

see next page

CONFERENCE THEMES

Contributions may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:



1 NEW PERSPECTIVES IN CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: THEORIES AND APPROACHES

- Cultural diplomacy of authoritarian systems toward democratic nations
- Small-state and peripheral-power cultural diplomacy
- Non-Western and post-colonial perspectives on soft power
- Religion as a form of cultural diplomacy
- Cultural diplomacy in periods of crisis



5 DIASPORAS, MIGRANT COMMUNITIES, AND GRASSROOTS DIPLOMACY

- Diasporas as actors of cultural diplomacy
- Migrant communities and transnational connections
- Civil society and international cultural relations
- Grassroots and people-to-people diplomacy



2 CULTURAL PROJECTION AND EVERYDAY CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

- Art, cinema, music, photography, and other cultural expressions as instruments of international influence
- Tourism, cultural routes, and heritage destinations in the construction of national images
- Religious actors, faith-based networks, and cultural diplomacy
- Gastronomy, food cultures, and gastrodiplomacy



6 SPORTS, MEGA-EVENTS, AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION

- Olympic Games, World Cups, and other mega-events
- International exhibitions, nation branding, and international visibility
- Music festivals and geopolitical competition



3 HERITAGE DIPLOMACY

- Museums, archives, and heritage institutions in international relations
- Restitution, repatriation, and cultural diplomacy
- Heritage diplomacy and international cultural cooperation in the post-colonial framework



7 CORPORATE, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DIPLOMACY

- Corporate diplomacy and private-sector influence
- Science diplomacy and international cooperation
- Space programs, technological achievement, and international prestige



4 EDUCATION, LANGUAGE, AND ACADEMIC DIPLOMACY

- Universities and higher education as actors of international influence
- Academic mobility and exchange programs
- Language promotion and linguistic diplomacy

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Please submit to this email:
npcd2027@ics.ulisboa.pt



An abstract
of up to **500** words



A short biography
of up to **150** words

IMPORTANT DATES



20 OCTOBER 2026

Abstract submission
deadline



15 NOVEMBER 2026

Notification of
acceptance



24–26 FEBRUARY 2027

Conference dates

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