

SPLENDID ENCOUNTERS X

Beyond The Truth: Misinformation and Credibility in Early Modern Diplomacy

12th-14th October 2022

Sala degli Stemmi (Villa Salviati) and Refettorio (Badia Fiesolana)
Organisers: prof. Giancarlo Casale, dr Anna Kalinowska, Klaudia Kuchno

WEDNESDAY, 12th OCTOBER 2022 – SALA DEGLI STEMMI (Villa Salviati)

15.00-15.45 **Registration of the speakers**

16.00-16.15 **Welcome and opening remarks**

16.15-17.45 **Keynote lecture**

- **Jan Hennings (Central European University)**
Whose truth? Handling Information and Narrating Embassies

THURSDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2022 – REFETTORIO (Badia Fiesolana)

9.30-11.00 **Panel 1. Spaces, Tools, and Methods of Misinforming in Early Modern Diplomacy, part I**

Chair: Glenda Sluga

- **Sergio Costola (Southwestern University)**
The Battle of Polesella (1509): Diplomatic Relations and the Performing Arts
- **Thom Prichard (University of Edinburgh)**
“The Action Upon Which the World’s Eye is Turned”: Receiving, Debating, and Understanding News of the Thirty Years’ War
- **Kristine Dyrmann (Aarhus University)**
Salon diplomacy and secret couriers during the revolutionary war: Charlotte Schimmelmann’s salon in Copenhagen, 1789-95

11.00-11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30-13.30 **Panel 2. Spaces, Tools, and Methods of Misinforming in Early Modern Diplomacy, part II**

Chair: Sinem Casale

- **Maxim Hoffman (Ghent University)**
(Un)covering truth and dissimulation by imperial ambassadors in France through emotions, corporal gestures and facial expressions (1525-1545)
- **Ewelina Sikora (Central European University)**
With a grain of salt: food and drink in Polish-Lithuanian diplomatic accounts in the late seventeenth century

- **Paul-Arthur Tortosa (Université de Strasbourg)**
Commercial rivalries and sanitary misinformation in 18th-century Italy
- **Aleksandra Buhl (University of York)**
Anders Sorensen Vedel and his encryption system based on the old Nordic runic alphabets

13.30-15.00 Lunch Break

15.00-16.30 Panel 3. Misinformation as Part of the Diplomatic Strategy: the Case of British Diplomacy in the Late Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Century

Chair: Giorgio Riello

- **Adam Grimshaw (Independent)**
Transmitters of knowledge, news, and subterfuge: English Diplomats and the Kingdom of Sweden in the later seventeenth century
- **Stephen Griffin (University of Limerick)**
Misinformation, secret diplomacy, and Jacobite activities in eighteenth-century Vienna
- **Michael Schaich (German Historical Institute London)**
Fog in the Channel. Misinformation in Diplomatic Communication between Britain and the Continent

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-18.30 Panel 4. Misinformation as Part of the Diplomatic Strategy: the Case of the Dutch Republic in the Early Seventeenth Century

Chair: Giancarlo Casale

- **Helmer Helmers (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences)**
Weighing the Ambassador's Word. Dudley Carleton's Printed Oration as Disinformation
- **Nina Lamal (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences)**
Disinformation and power: the use of rumours in early seventeenth-century diplomacy
- **Kerrewin van Blanken (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences)**
Evaluating propaganda and disinformation by early modern diplomats

FRIDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2022 – SALA DEGLI STEMMI (Villa Salviati)

9.30-11.00 Panel 5. Credibility and Mistrust: The Case of the Ottoman Empire, part I

Chair: Klaudia Kuchno

- **Emese Muntán (The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies)**
Impedimento peggiore di tutti "sunt falsi fratres" — Defamatory Reports about Bosnian Franciscans in Seventeenth-Century Rome
- **Gábor Kármán (Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)**
Gábor Bethlen's Attempts to Lure the Ottomans into the Thirty Years War: A Case Study in Misinformation and Misinterpretation
- **Günhan Börekçi (Central European University)**
Credible or not Credible?: Evaluating the Biographical Information from European Diplomatic Sources Concerning the Ottoman Ruling Elite in the Early 17th Century

11.00-11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30-13.00 **Panel 6. Credibility and Mistrust: The Case of the Ottoman Empire, part II**

Chair: Anna Kalinowska

- **Zeynep Yelçe (Sabancı Üniversitesi)**
The Story of the Poisonous Gown: Then and Now
- **Ela Bozok (European University Institute)**
An Ottoman Game of Thrones: News and Rumours about the Escape of Prince Bayezid to Safavid Persia
- **Marian Coman (University of Bucharest)**
Renaissance Ambassadors and Christian-Ottoman Pretenders

13.00-14.30 **Lunch Break**

14.30-16.30 **Panel 7. European Diplomacy and the Outside World – Between True and Fake**

Chair: Carlos Antolín Rejón

- **Davide Trentacoste (The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History)**
Misinformation and pro-Persian propaganda in Italy between the sixteenth and seventeenth century
- **Angelo Cattaneo (CNR Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche)**
Serial Illusionists. The Jesuit Invention and use of the “United, Peaceful and Prosperous Europe” topos in Missionary Diplomacy (Japan and China 1580-1640)
- **John Freeman (University of Cambridge)**
Dutchmen Pretending to be Courlanders: The Role of Misinformation in Colonial Competition and Diplomacy through the Experience of the Duchy of Courland
- **Nicolas Blum Fernandez (Scuola Superiore Meridionale, Università di Napoli Federico II)**
Creating Borders in the South Atlantic: Iberian Diplomats and the Construction of a Global Knowledge Heritage (1750-1777)

16.30-16.45 **Coffee Break**

16.45-18.15 **Panel 8. Diplomatic Misinformation and News Networks/Media in Early Modern Europe**

Chair: Christopher Storrs

- **Lourdes Amigo Vázquez (Complutense University of Madrid)**
How to misinform and why in 17th century Europe. The exile of the Grand Condé in the Habsburg Netherlands in Spanish and French news reports
- **Lena Liapi (Keele University)**
Betting on News: Misinformation and Politics in Early Modern Europe
- **Carolina Esteves Soares (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)**
The role of news publications in the Anglo-Portuguese diplomatic relations. A closer look at the troubled years between 1735 and 1739

18.15-18.30 **Final Remarks**