International Academic Conference

8–9 October 2026 Belgrade

Cultural Diplomacy & the Arts in Times of Uncertainty

University of Arts in Belgrade
Evropska kuća
Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation
austrijski kulturni forum beg
Kreativna Evropa Desk Srbija
Institut Français Serbie

Thursday, October 8

University of Arts, Ceremony hall, Kosančićev venac St. 29

9.30-10.00 **Registration**

10.00 Welcome address
Prof. Dr Mirjana Nikolić, Rector, University of Arts in Belgrade

10.15-11.45 Key note lecture
Ambassador (ret.) Cynthia P. Schneider, PhD., Georgetown University, USA
Why Culture Matters
Introduction by Prof. Emerita Milena Dragićević Šešić, PhD., University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

12.00-13.30 Plenary session: Changing International Order: Power, Strategy and Influence
Prof. Dr Dragan R. Simić, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences Contemporary Global and Strategic Context and Changes in International Order: Changes within the Order or Changes of the Order?
Dr Ognjen Pribićević, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Social Sciences, (ret.) and former Ambassador to Germany and UK
From Roman Baths and Mosaics to Trump's Harvard
Prof. Dr Stevan Nedeljković, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences
Restraint or Reallocation? Rethinking U.S. Grand Strategy in a Changing Strategic Environment
Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr Marko Dašić, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences

13.30 - 14.30 **Lunch break**

Europe House, Zmaj Jovina St. 8

15.00 – 16.45 Welcome address: Assoc. Prof. Dr Ljiljana Rogač Mijatović, University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Conference Programme Board

Panel discussion: Culture as a Bridge in Times of Uncertainty
Ambassador Regina Rusz, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs Republic of Austria, Director General International Cultural Affairs
Ms. Eilidh Hamilton, British Council, Director Western Balkans
Mr. Roman Bělor, The Prague Spring Festival Director, the Vltava Philharmonic Foundation Board
Moderator: Ambassador (ret.) Cynthia P. Schneider, PhD., Georgetown University, USA

Break

17.00 – 18.30 Panel discussion: Art as Resistance, Reflection, and Dialogue
Dijana Milošević, theatre director
Mrđan Bajić, visual artist
Stefan Arsenijević, film director
Moderator: Prof. Emerita Milena Dragićević Šešić, PhD., University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

Friday, October 9

University of Arts, Ceremony hall, Kosančićev venac St. 29

10.00-11.30 Plenary session: **Cultural Diplomacy as Dialogue, Contestation and Public Engagement** Prof. Dr Monika Mokre, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Cultural Studies Discursive Formats of the Vienna Festival – Spaces for Contestation or Just Performance?Prof. Dr Laurent Martin, Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris 3 University
"Débat d'idées," public debate: a new tool for French cultural diplomacy?
Dr Jonathan Vickery, University of Warwick, Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies Civil Society Options for Informal Cultural Diplomacy: empirical and theoretical isssues
Chair: Dr Aleksandra Kolaković, Scientific Advisor, Institute for Political Studies in Belgrade

Break

12.00 – 13.30 Plenary session: **From Image Representation to Bottom-up Cultural Diplomacy**
Prof. Dr Nevena Daković, University of Arts in Belgrade – Faculty of Dramatic Arts Geopolitics and Geoesthetics of Film Festivals (Venice, Cannes, Berlin: 2000-2026)
Prof. Dr Slobodan Marković, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Political Sciences Non-State Cultural Diplomacy in Deeply Divided Societies: The Role of Cultural and Intellectual Elites
Dr Aleksandra Kolaković, Scientific Advisor, Institute for Political Studies in Belgrade From Cold War Science to the Modern Polycrisis: The Evolution of Knowledge Diplomacy
Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr Ljiljana Rogač Mijatović, University of Arts, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

13.30 - 14.30 **Lunch break**

Europe House, Zmaj Jovina St. 8

15.00– 16.30 Panel discussion: **European Cultural Cooperation: New Challenges, New Possibilities** Assoc. Prof. Dr Matina Magkou, Université Côte d'Azur
Prof. Dr Edin Jašarović, Faculty of Drama Arts and Film Centre Montenegro Jonathan Goodacre, international cultural consultant
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr Nina Mihaljinac, University of Arts, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

17.00 – 18.30 **Break**

Book conversation: **Understanding Cultural Diplomacy and International Cultural Relations** Dr Jonathan Vickery, University of Warwick, Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies Assoc. Prof. Dr Matina Magkou, Université Côte d'Azur
Prof. Dr Monika Mokre, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Cultural Studies Moderator: Prof. Emerita Milena Dragićević Šešić, PhD., University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

17.00 – 18.30 17.00-18.30 Online session: **Artistic Freedom, Cultural Resistance and New Forms of Collaboration**
Prof. Dr. Raphaela Henze, Heilbronn University
Coping strategies for cultural organisations facing threats to their artistic freedom
Dr Milena Jokanović, Senior Research Fellow, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy
Non-Alignment Revisited: The Potential of Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice
Dušan Medin, researcher, University Donja Gorica, Montenegro
Between Research and Representation: A Reflexive Perspective on Cultural and Scientific Diplomacy between Montenegro and the United States of America
Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr Ljiljana Rogač Mijatović, University of Arts, Faculty of Dramatic Arts