



Defining and Exploring Science Diplomacy

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Science diplomacy is ...

- **A set of practices**
- **A label given to public (state-led) policies**
- **A discourse and a concept**
- **A subject of academic studies**
- **A subject of professional training**
- **An important cause to be defended**
- **...**

I - Science diplomacy connects two very different worlds

- **SCIENCE and its universal values.....**
Universality, rationality, transparency...
Includes social sciences; includes technology
- **....DIPLOMACY and national interests**
Foreign affairs - Geopolitics
Dialogue, negotiation, representation

Science diplomacy “at the intersection of... ”

Going further about diplomacy:

- **Westphalian approach: D is a prerogative of sovereign states**
- **“New Diplomacy”: non-state actors participate in the diplomatic game**

SD fits very well within the frame of New Diplomacy: bottom up/top down initiatives, co-construction...

Actors of science diplomacy

Diplomatic actors

- Chief scientist advisers to Ministry of foreign affairs
- Science attachés at embassies
- Science envoys...

Non diplomatic actors

- Academies of sciences
- International Science Council, Global Research Council
- Universities, NGOs...
-

A new discourse in early 21st century

- **2007** Lord and Turekian: “Time for a New Era of Science Diplomacy”
- **2008** Creation of the *Center for Science Diplomacy (AAAS)*
- **2010** Royal Society and AAAS: *New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy - Navigating the Changing Balance of Power?*
- **2012** Launch of *Science & Diplomacy*, a AAAS quarterly journal


Science diplomacy: why now?

- Rise of concerns about *global issues* (environment, health, security...)
- Increasing role *soft power* in the post-Cold War period –
The *soft power* of science
- Today's diplomacy is more *integrative*: increasing role played by *non-state actors*

2010



2017

SCIENCE & DIPLOMACY 

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P.D. Gluckman, V. Turekian, R.W. Grimes, and T. Kishi, 'Science Diplomacy: A Pragmatic Perspective from the Inside,' *Science & Diplomacy*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (December 2017), <http://www.sciencediplomacy.org/article/2018/pragmatic-perspective>

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Science Diplomacy: A Pragmatic Perspective from the Inside

Peter D. Gluckman, Vaughn C. Turekian, Robin W. Grimes, and Teruo Kishi

Two lenses have typically defined international science cooperation: advancing knowledge and ensuring scientific capability, or advancing broader national interests. It is the latter perspective, advancing both direct and indirect national interests, that the evolving concept of science diplomacy primarily encompasses. This is also reflected in the creation by a growing number of foreign ministries of formal links to the science system by appointing science advisors or embedding science and technology (S&T) units within ministries. While there is no sharp distinction between the two spheres, they are often administered through different agencies and different funding streams, which can cause potential conflicts between—and confusion within—agencies. Indeed, better coordination could resolve such issues, while enhancing the value generated by such endeavors.

The concept of science diplomacy was given contemporary emphasis and currency by a meeting held in 2009 at Wilton House, United Kingdom, sponsored by the Royal Society, (London) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), publisher of *Science & Diplomacy*.¹ The most influential outcome of that meeting was the development of a taxonomy for science diplomacy that has come to be widely used:

Author information may be found at the end of the article.

2010

Royal Society and AAAS

- **Informing foreign policy objectives with scientific advice** (*science in diplomacy*)
- **Facilitating international science cooperation** (*diplomacy for science*)
- **Using science cooperation to improve international relations** (*science for diplomacy*)

2017

P. Gluckman et al.

- **Actions designed to directly advance a country's national needs**
- **Actions designed to address cross-border interests**
- **Actions primarily designed to meet global needs and challenges**



**Barack Hussein Obama's speech
in Cairo 4 June 2009**



**First discussion
between
Gorbachev and Reagan
about ITER – Geneva,
19 November 1985**



**Working Group I contribution to the
IPCC Sixth Assessment Report
Electronic Session, 26 July - 6 August 2021**

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Science diplomacy in the mainstream approach:

SD is a process

- to address global challenges
- to improve international relations

... with two key levers:

- international scientific cooperation
- sound science advice in policy-making

THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF SCIENCE FOR DIPLOMACY

An underlying (geo) political project :

- **using science for restoring/developing links with certain countries**
- **using scientific cooperation as a lever for regional integration policy**

- In “Science Diplomacy” what ought to be understood first is “Diplomacy”
- From a national perspective, the word “Diplomacy” brings into play national interests
- From a global issues perspective, the word “Diplomacy” brings into play the international system and its governance

II – The shortcomings of the mainstream approach to SD

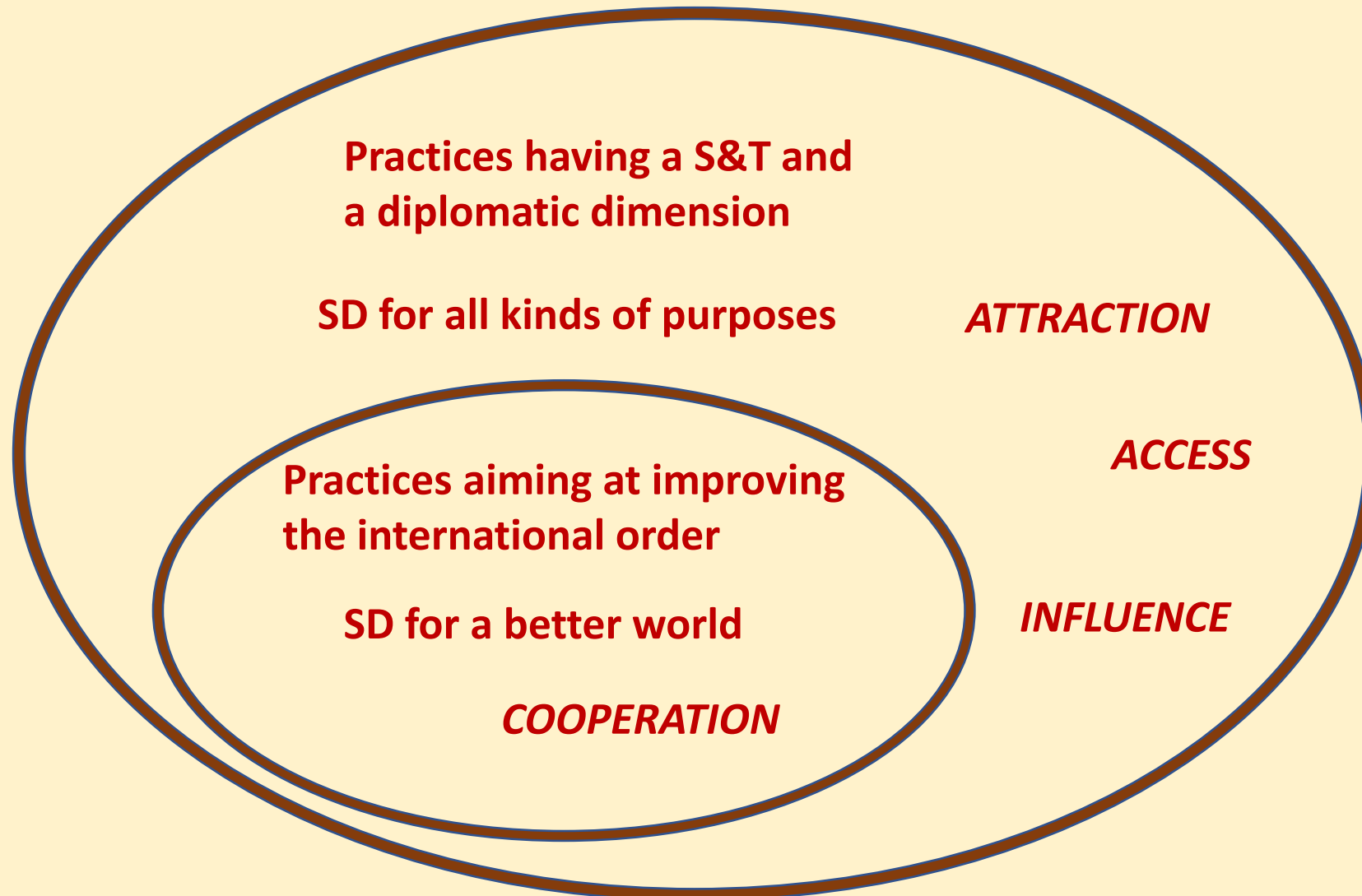
Grey areas:

- The use of science and technology as an instrument of state power is overshadowed**
- The rationale of competition is underestimated**

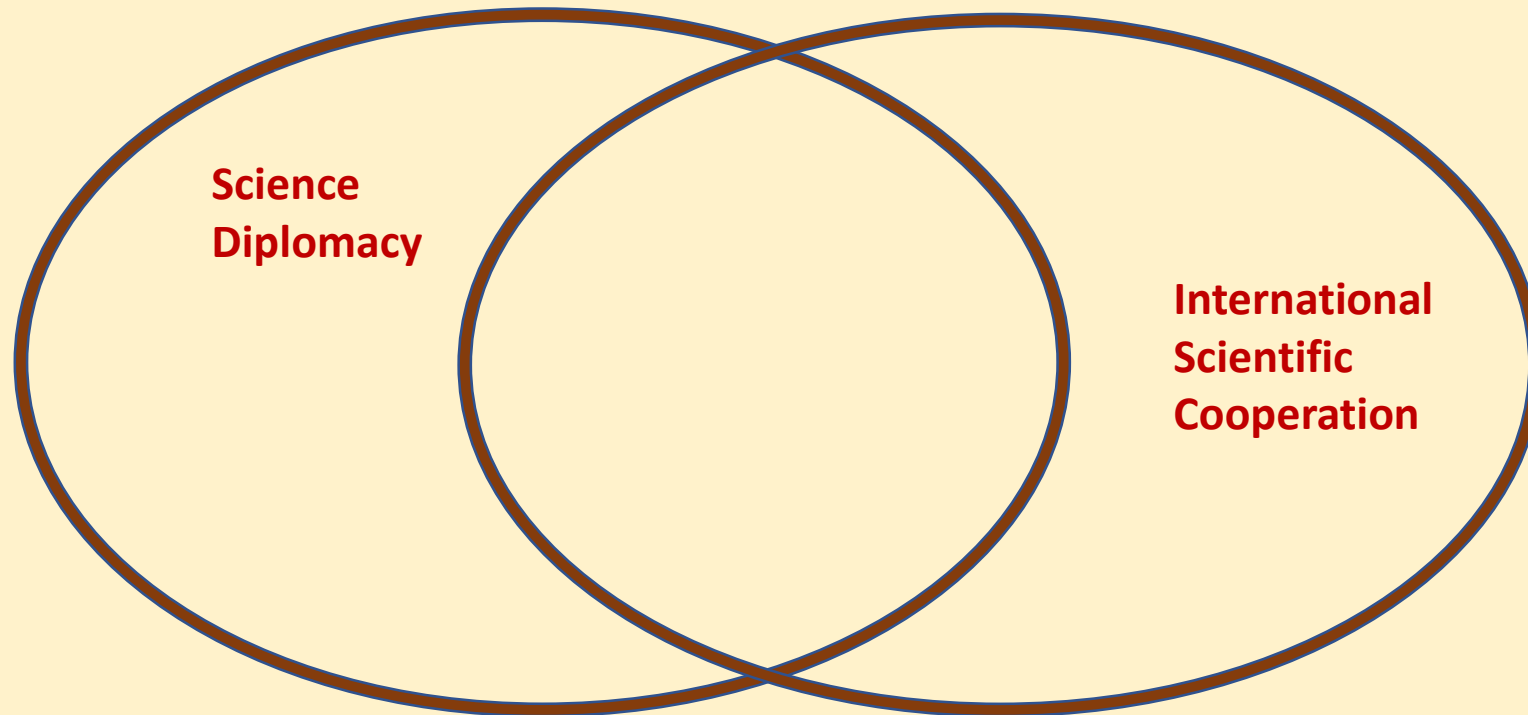
Also absent in the discourse on Science Diplomacy:

- **Attraction of scientific talents (brain drain...)**
- **Global North/Global South asymmetries**
- **Theft of intellectual property**
- **Intelligence gathering**
- **...**
**... national strategies driven by the will
of taking advantage over others**

Broad and narrow definitions of SD



SD should not be confused with international scientific cooperation



The dual nature of science diplomacy

- Countries must *agree and cooperate* in an increasingly globalized world
- They have the will to defend and promote the *national interest* on the world stage
- This leads to a distinction between *collaborative* science diplomacy and *competitive* science diplomacy

The *statist* and *globalist* approaches to SD

Statist

Need to protect and enhance national interests

Traditional diplomatic (state-centred) discourse

Subset of foreign policy

Realism

Globalist

Need to solve global problems

Science-based discourse

Focus on common interests and global governance

Universalism/idealism

IV – Science diplomacy in a changing world: towards a new paradigm?

Context:

- Contestation of the post-war world order and rising geopolitical rivalries
- “Like-minded” countries (the West) *versus* “non like-minded” countries (the Rest)

- **In this context: increased attention to risks of international scientific cooperation**

Influence, interference

Threats to academic freedom

Theft of intellectual property; scientific espionage



Recent directions of SD from a Western perspective

- SD must stop must “stop being naïve” and “learn the language of Realpolitik”

New balance between security and openness:

“as open as possible and as closed as necessary” (European Commission)

Increased S&T protectionism

- **A strategic use of science diplomacy**

Scientific cooperation as a channel for promoting European/Western values

- “ Actions carried out under the Programme shall comply with ethical principles and relevant Union, national and international law, including the Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols”.
- “ In order to guarantee scientific excellence, and in line with Article 13 of the Charter, the Programme should promote the respect of academic freedom in all countries benefiting from its funds”.

Horizon Europe rules for participation and dissemination (2021)

Weaponization of scientific exchanges: scientific sanctions against Russia

“It is an attack on elementary values of freedom, democracy and self determination, on which cultural expression, academic and scientific freedom and scientific cooperation are based”.

STATEMENT ON RESEARCH BY COMMISSIONER MARIYA GABRIEL, Brussels, 3 March 2022

Cooperation - Competition

Cooperation - Competition - Conflict

MERCI DE VOTRE ATTENTION!

**First Pugwash Conference
“Science and World Affairs”
2-15 July 1957**



**Shanghai Communiqué
28 février 1972**

**Apollo-Soyuz Test Project
July 1975**

