

Cultural Diplomacy as a Field of Tension Cancel Culture, Self-Censorship and Geopolitical Conflicts as a Challenge



May 12-14, 2025
Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam / Universiteit van Amsterdam

Monday, May 12, 2025

18:00 Strategies for Cultural Diplomacy in Polarised Times / Strategien kultureller Diplomatie in polarisierten Zeiten

Panel discussion at the [Goethe-Institut Amsterdam](https://www.goethe-institut.nl/en/about-goethe-institut/amsterdam)

Opening remarks

Elke Kaschl Mohni, Goethe-Institut, Regional Director Europa II

Panel discussion with

Corina Şuteu (former Minister of Culture of Romania)

Beata Ociepka (Professor of International Relations, University of Wrocław, NARDIV)

Olga Brzezińska (Vice-Director of Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Poland)

Julien Chiappone-Lucchesi (Directeur général de l'Institut français de Roumanie, NARDIV)

Hanna Klimpe (Professor of Social Media, HAW Hamburg, NARDIV)

Moderation: **Joachim Umlauf** (Director of Goethe-Institut Bukarest, NARDIV)

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 (location: Doelenzaal, [University Library Singel](#))

9:30–10:00 Welcome & Introduction

10:00–11:30 Panel 1: Cultural Diplomacy in Times of Polarisation

Opening session and contextual framing

Keynote Inputs

Olga Brzezińska (Vice-Director of Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Poland)

Hanna Klimpe (Professor of Social Media, HAW Hamburg)

Moderation & Discussion: Ton Nijhuis

11:30–12:00 Coffee Break

12:00–13:30 Panel 2: Diverging Approaches to Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: Case Studies

Corina Șuteu – The Impact of the French and German Cultural Diplomacy Agencies on the Romanian Post-communist Cultural System Transformation

Joachim Umlauf – Foreign Cultural Policies: One Model Fits All?

Nicole Colin – Exporting Values? Feminist Cultural Diplomacy Between Progress and Paternalism

Moderation & Discussion: Julien Chiappone-Lucchesi

13:30–14:30 Lunch Discussion

Informal exchange on institutional practices across countries

Open buffet & networking

14:30–16:00 Panel 3: Artistic Freedom vs. Political Constraints

Cristian Preda – Cultural Diplomacy as a Form of Espionage: the Activity of the French Library in Bucharest in the Eighties

Hermine Ioana Fierbinteanu – Cultural Work under Political Pressure (Die Tageszeitung *Neuer Weg*)

Moderation & Discussion: Catherine Teissier

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break

16:30–18:30 PhD Presentations & Discussion

Short research presentations followed by feedback session

Catalina Barlea

Miriam Meinekat

Nina Laskowski

Roxana Lapadat

Moderation: Joachim Umlauf & Hanna Klimpe

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 (location: Doelenzaal, [University Library Singel](#))

09:00–11:30 Panel 4: Cancel Culture, Self-Censorship & Safe Spaces

Beata Ociepka – Cultural Diplomacy in Hard Times and Places. Attracting Friends, What about Enemies?

Oana Siucu – Perspectives of a Unified European Cultural Diplomacy

Martin Klatt (*online*) – National Minorities as Agents of Cultural Diplomacy

Moderation & Discussion: Hanna Klimpe

11:30–12:00 Coffee Break

12:00–13:00 Closing Roundtable: Toward a Resilient Framework for European Cultural Policy
Open discussion with all participants

Guiding questions:

How can cultural institutions safeguard structural independence?

What kind of international alliances are needed today?

How can cultural actors navigate ideological fragmentation within society?

Moderation: Nicole Colin & Corina Şuteu