

## 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](#)

#### 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: Potgieterzaal, [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 Şuteu** – 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*

**Cătălina Bălan**

**Miriam Meinekat**

**Nina Laskowski**

**Roxana Lapadat**

Moderation: Joachim Umlauf & Hanna Klimpe

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025** (location: Potgieterzaal, [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