

## Science Diplomacy in Times of Global Crises

14-15 September 2023

Austrian Cultural Forum New York

Science diplomacy is an often-promulgated concept in light of tackling global challenges in an increasingly interconnected and competitive world order. Science diplomacy is believed to foster peace and understanding between nations and has often been utilized to argue for more cooperation and openness among adverse states. Can science diplomacy keep up with its promise in an ever-more fragmented multipolar world? Does the concept and its basic tenets need to be revised or has science diplomacy never been more valid and important?

This event explores science diplomacy in current global affairs from at least two perspectives in times of multiple crises: the need for openness and collaboration in tackling global challenges and the need for safe-guarding indisputable values, principles and interests. The first perspective will be addressed with a focus on Artificial Intelligence (Session 1: “Open science diplomacy for an ethical and trustworthy global AI”), the second perspective will be covered by attending to the risks of foreign interference, intellectual property right, misinformation and manipulation in international science cooperation (Session 2: “Science diplomacy in a fragmented, multipolar world”). Both sessions will take place on Friday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The opening session on Thursday night (September 14<sup>th</sup>) will also invite artistic perspectives and approaches to the otherwise highly conceptual debate, thereby broadening the range of perspectives on science diplomacy in times of global crises.

The panel sessions on Friday have been registered as an official side event of the Science Summit at the 78<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly taking Place on September 12<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Venue address:

*Austrian Cultural Forum New York  
11 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10022*



Science Summit at UNGA78  
12-29 September 2023

## Program

**Thursday, 14 September 2023**

6 pm Austrian Cultural Forum New York – Tour of current exhibition “What Should I be Afraid of? Roma Artist Ceija Stojka” (optional)

7 pm *Welcome address*

**Dr. Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger**, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York (confirmed)

**Mag. Friedrich Faulhammer**, Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK) (confirmed)

7.15 pm *Opening Speeches I & II*

**Prof. Dr. Gerald Steiner**, University Professor of Organization, Communication, and Innovation, University for Continuing Education Krems (confirmed)

**Prof. Dr. Eva Schernhammer**, Professor of Epidemiology, Head of Department of Epidemiology, Medical University Vienna; Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (confirmed)

*Artist Intervention on Science Diplomacy*

**Gediminas Urbonas**, Professor in Art, Culture and Technology, School of Architecture+Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (confirmed)

8.15 pm *Panel Discussion and Q&A*

with Prof. Dr. Eva Schernhammer, Prof. Dr. Gerald Steiner, Gediminas Urbonas

Moderated by **Dr. Katja Mayer**, University of Vienna

8.45 pm *Evening Reception*

**Friday, 15 September 2023**

- 10 am *Session I: Open science diplomacy for an ethical and trustworthy global AI*
- Rumman Chowdhury, PhD** Responsible AI Fellow at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center (confirmed)
- Prof. Dr. Judith Simon**, Professor for Ethics in Information Technology (confirmed)
- Yacine Jernite, PhD** Leader of the Machine Learning and Society Team, Hugging Face (confirmed)
- Under-Secretary-General Amandeep Gill**, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
- Moderator: **Dr. Katja Mayer**, University of Vienna
- 11.00 -11.15 *Coffee Break*
- 11.15 am *Session II: Science diplomacy in a fragmented, multipolar world*
- Derya Buyuktanir Karacan, PhD**, George Washington University & EURAXESS North America (confirmed)
- Mag. Martina Hartl**, BMBWF, Member of the ERA Subgroup "Global approach to R&I cooperation" and member of the Steering Team on the EU Science Diplomacy Agenda (confirmed)
- Peter B. Kaufman**, Senior Program Officer, MIT Open Learning (confirmed)
- Isabella Tomas, MA**, Consul and Co-Director of Open Austria San Francisco (confirmed)
- Moderator: **Dr. Klaus Schuch**, Director of the Center for Social Innovation (ZSI)
- 12.15 am *Final Reflecting Remarks*
- Mag. Friedrich Faulhammer**, Rector of the University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK) (confirmed)
- 12.30 am *Closing Remarks*
- Dr. Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger**, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York (confirmed)
- 12.45 am *Light Lunch*