

Science Diplomacy Week 2023

Open Forum Program

Geneva, 8-12 May 2023

The [Science Diplomacy Week 2023](#) is an annual learning and networking experience into the science and diplomacy ecosystem of International Geneva. Initiated in 2022 by the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator Foundation (GESDA) and organized in partnership with 14 Geneva, Swiss and global academic and diplomatic institutions, the program brings together the current and next generation of leaders from around the world for an intensive week of dialogue and exchange with the key international agencies, diplomatic missions, academic institutions, global NGOs and technology leaders shaping the future of science for multilateralism.

The Science Diplomacy Week will provide an entry point into the rapidly evolving practice and research of science diplomacy in Geneva, Switzerland and the world and a platform to discuss key upcoming trends and areas of innovation to contribute to adaptation of diplomacy, multilateral governance, academia and business in the face of the coming decades of systemic change.

The primary target communities for the Open Forum are expert-level participants from government, international organizations, the private sector and academia as well as the new generation of young professionals and students working on issues related to science diplomacy.

The Science Diplomacy Week Open Forum is organized as a collective impact process facilitated by GESDA on behalf of the Members of the [Geneva Coalition on Anticipatory Science and Diplomacy](#) to mobilize the joint footprint of competences on science diplomacy in International Geneva.



Monday, May 8th



Science Diplomacy Week 2023 – Opening Ceremony

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

Organizer: GESDA, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Location: [WMO](#) - Salle Obasi

Address: 7bis Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

Official opening of the Science Diplomacy Week for the International Geneva community and presentation of WMO's Global Greenhouse Monitoring Infrastructure (GGMI).



Science Diplomacy Week 2023 - Opening reception

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Organizer: GESDA, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Location: [WMO](#) rooftop (7bis Avenue de la Paix Case postale 2300 Nations, 1211 Genève, Switzerland)

Address: 7bis Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

Cocktail reception

Wednesday, May 10th



Emerging technologies: What opportunities for International Security

Time: 14:00 – 15:30

Organizers: GCSP, Geneva Graduate Institute

Location: [GCSP](#) - 4th floor conference room (Maison de la Pax)

Address: Chem. Eugène-Rigot 2D, 1211 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

Rapid evolutions in the development of disruptive emerging technologies (synthetic biology, artificial intelligence and neuroscience among others) are giving rise to concerns over their potential misuses and malicious uses. It is therefore primordial to understand how we can unlock the full potential of these technologies in a way which maximizes their positive influence on international security. This discussion gathers a panel composed of the GCSP's three Polymath Fellows in synthetic biology, artificial intelligence and neuroscience, along with a Graduate Institute Professor in International Law, to discuss these technologies' beneficial applications and explore the ways in which they can be used to bolster international security and minimize their potential harm.

Speakers:

- Dr Jean-Marc Rickli, Head of Global and Emerging Risks and Polymath Initiative, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Dr Kevin Esvelt, Assistant Professor at MIT Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Polymath Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Dr Sandra Scott-Hayward, Senior Lecturer, School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Queen's University Belfast; Polymath Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Dr Ricardo Chavarriaga, Head of the Swiss office of the Confederation of Laboratories for AI Research in Europe; Senior researcher, Zürich University of Applied Sciences; Polymath Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Dr Paola Gaeta, Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies



Improving the use of evidence and knowledge equity in international education policy

Time: 15:30 – 17:00

Organizers: Geneva Graduate Institute, Norrag

Location: [Geneva Graduate Institute](#) (Maison de la Pax)

Address: Chem. Eugène-Rigot 2, 1202 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

Despite living in an era of a surplus of globally produced data and research, there is still limited uptake in policy, planning, and implementation to advance Sustainable Development Goal 4. This session will explore two questions: (1) How can the use of research evidence (URE) be promoted to serve the achievement of the SDG-4 targets? (2) What can be learned from the public health sector in terms of how the use of research evidence is coordinated and managed? Because the current approach to using research and evidence is not working, UNESCO asked NORRAG to conduct a study and produce a report based on a survey, individual and group interviews, and a comparative case study with the public health sector. This session will present and discuss the results of this study, including the roadmap and action plan.

Speakers:

- Dr. Moira Faul, Executive Director of NORRAG, and Senior Lecturer at the Geneva Graduate Institute
- Prof. Gita Steiner, Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute and UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education Policy
- Master student from GISA TechSec initiative



Science, Peacetechnology and Diplomacy

Time: 18:30-20:00

Organizers: Geneva Graduate Institute, EPFL

Location: [Geneva Graduate Institute](#) (Maison de la Pax)

Address: Chem. Eugène-Rigot 2, 1202 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

In an era of changing strategic landscapes, the nature of conflict is becoming increasingly multifaceted, dynamic, hybrid, and protracted. Multi-stakeholder alliances are becoming increasingly important in the field of peacebuilding. They can leverage their complementary expertise to break down sectoral silos and bridge capacities to achieve greater impact and accelerate the achievement of sustainable peace for all. This new

approach to diplomacy recognizes the need for integrated, multidisciplinary collaboration across different professional communities, including science. Computer scientists can best produce innovative technologies when built on the field expertise of peace practitioners and the scientific evidence of social scientists. This session will explore science diplomacy in action: it will present the roadmap and discuss some of the key challenges and opportunities of a specific research project on mitigating online polarization in the context of conflict, conducted by members of the Swiss Alliance of PeaceTech.

Speakers:

- Dr. Peter Maurer, Former President of the ICRC
- Amb. Alexandre Fasel, Ambassador, Special Representative for Science Diplomacy, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
- Dr. Achim Wennmann, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding and Lecturer, Geneva Graduate Institute or Dr. Klaus Schönenberger, Director, EPFL EssentialTech
- Dr. Annyssa Billal Senior Researcher Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Geneva Graduate Institute

Thursday, May 11th



Science diplomacy and emerging technologies: “The Thing From The Future.”

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Organizers: foraus, Swiss Young Academy

Location: [Impact Hub Geneva](#)

Address: Rue Fendt 1, 1201 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

This interactive session organized by foraus and the Swiss Young Academy will bring together early-career scientists and policy professionals to discuss ongoing challenges and opportunities for engaging in science diplomacy in the context of emerging technologies. The session will be based on the award-winning game “The Thing From The Future” followed by a networking apéro to stimulate crossdisciplinary collaborations between young scientists, policy-makers, and diplomats addressing the role of science diplomacy in the future of emerging technologies.

Friday, May 12th



Technology and Diplomacy: The rise of multilateralism in the Bay Area & Lessons for the Geneva Ecosystem

Time: 14:00 – 15:30

Organizer: DiploFoundation

Location: [Campus Biotech](#) EPFL Room, 6th floor

Address: Chem. des Mines 9, 1202 Genève, Switzerland

Description:

The session shares key findings and lessons from recently conducted research on the practice of tech diplomacy in the San Francisco Bay Area.

With the Geneva launch of the study 'Technology and Diplomacy: The rise of multilateralism in the Bay Area', we aim to bring this important conversation to Geneva. We dive deeper into the various forms of interactions between tech and diplomacy and highlight lessons for the Geneva ecosystem and the future of diplomatic practice.

Speakers:

- Ambassador Ume Bhatia, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN in Geneva
- Claudia Taboada, Director Science, Technology and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic
- Thato Morokong Assistant Director: Africa Multilateral Cooperation, Department of Science and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Inn. South Africa
- Yannick Heiniger, Swissnex in San Francisco
- Pavlina Ittelson, Executive Director, Diplo US
- Katharina Höne, Director of Research, DiploFoundation