

In recent years, the expansion of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office network into new countries has generated increasing interest in the role of the places and spaces where diplomacy is made, in the international outreach of the United Kingdom and in the interactions between state and non-state actors and initiatives in delivering foreign policy objectives. What has received perhaps less sustained attention is the impact of diplomatic departures in Britain and in the British diplomatic network on the rethinking of Britain's influence and power (hard, soft and smart).

Considering a wide-range of diplomatic actors, and reflecting on the influence of the socio-economic and geopolitical dynamics of the host countries as well as the financial and political directions defined by the Foreign and Commonwealth office, this one-day conference reflects on the adaptability and resilience of Britain's international networks.

It assesses what characterises both British diplomacy and Britain as a diplomatic space, by looking at several types of departures:

- departures at times of crisis, when heads of mission resigned, were expelled or were reposted under pressure from the host government or were removed by the home government
- departures, in policy and style, which also occur in less dramatic circumstances, when a mission is relocated within the same country, or when British offices are expanded
- the establishment of multilateral missions and the pooling of resources, subsuming or redeploying specifically national offices

As the United Kingdom negotiates its new relationship with the European Union, this conference also seeks to bring diplomatic departures into historical perspective whilst assessing the contemporary dynamics at the heart of the actual and possible reorientations in British diplomacy.

Organised by CORPUS (UR UPJV 4295) and CREW (UR 4399), and with the support of the Institut universitaire de France

To register please contact the organisers before 28 September.
You will be sent an email before the event with a link to access it.

Contact:

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October
2020
Online event

DIPLOMATIC DEPARTURES:
negotiating Britain's international outreach in the
contemporary world

PROGRAMME

10.20 Welcome (virtual coffee!)

10.30-11.20

Global Britain, Global reach? The history of a shifting network

Chair: **Marie Ruiz**, Université de Picardie Jules Verne

Richard Smith, Principal Historian, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

11.30-1.00

Transforming Britain's influence beyond empire: style, substance and limits of Britain's diplomatic engagement

Chair: **Alice Byrne**, Aix-Marseille Université

Cultural diplomacy in times of crisis: the British Council departure from Burma during the military dictatorship (1962-1966)

Lauriane Simony, Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3

Failing to 'do a de Gaulle'? The break in Anglo-Algerian relations and the reformulation of Britain's African policy after 1965

Mélanie Torrent, Université Picardie Jules Verne / IUF

Farewell to North Vietnam: The Valedictory Despatches of Three British Consuls at the End of the Vietnam War

Lori Maguire, Université Paris 8

1.00-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30

Keynote lecture:

Britain and Africa: modern engagement in a changing world

Chair: **Mélanie Torrent**, Université de Picardie Jules Verne

Robert Dewar CMG, former UK diplomat & associate fellow, Chatham House

3.30-4.00 Break

4.00-5.30

**Departure as re-engagement and re-deployment?
Diplomatic challenges and assets in the "Brexit" transition**

Chair: **Amal El Founti**, Université de Picardie Jules Verne

British diplomatic re-engagement in the Pacific: More than just words?

Adrien Rodd, Université Versailles Saint Quentin / Sciences Po Saint Germain en Laye

'Global Britain' and the EU: what role for non-member states in CFSP?

Thibaud Harrois, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3

Entente Cordiale Redux: The Impact of Brexit on British and French Foreign and Security Policy

Amelia Hadfield, University of Surrey, Centre for Britain and Europe