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A Horizon 2020 project
involving 11 European
countries, 2018-2021
and targeting Diplomats,
Scientists and Researchers,
and Policy makers

Discovery Round Table 6 - SCIENCE DIPLOMATS: FLUID IDENTITIES AND EMERGENT PRACTICES

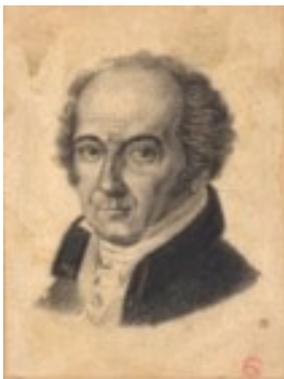
Science Diplomacy and the Republic of Letters Exploring the history of science diplomacy: the naturalist Abbé Correia da Serra

Prof. Maria DIOGO (New University of Lisbon)

(i) Is the history of Science Diplomacy relevant to diplomats? How can diplomats use the history of science diplomacy as leverage in their everyday work?

(ii) Main arguments

- The term 'science diplomacy' is quite new, but the practice of using science as a tool for diplomacy has been used for a long time;
- To understand how science diplomacy is built and how it came of age, we need a *long-durée* perspective that can capture both informal and formal practices and a large variety of actors.



(iii) The Abbé Correia da Serra: a case study from the late 18th and early 19th centuries

- clergyman, botanist
- founding member of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon
- politician and political refugee, diplomat and expatriate
- globetrotting seeker of knowledge, prestige and recognition
- “The Abbé’s diplomatic ability consists principally in affecting to be anything but a diplomat (...) He introduces himself as a familiar acquaintance (...) to gossip over a cup of tea”

(iv) Could we describe science diplomacy as “tea-cup diplomacy”?

Suggested questions

- Plasticity of the concept “science diplomacy”
- Diversity of actors
- Formal and informal networks
- State and non-state actors
- Are science and technology important for diplomacy?
- Is diplomacy important for the development of science and technology?
- How should we deal with hybrid spaces and practices involving scientists, engineers and diplomats?
- The power of negotiation: are science, technology and diplomacy alike?
- How can we use historical examples in contemporary debates?
- Why is science diplomacy particularly suitable to illustrate the concept of soft power?

InsSciDE Session Chair, Moderator and co-Scribe

- Prof. Paula Urze, Economic and Organizational Sociology, New University of Lisbon
- Prof. Ana Simões, University of Lisbon, President, European Society for the History of Science
- Dr Léonard Laborie, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, France; Deputy Coordinator, H2020 InsSciDE